

STOP THE INVASION- REPORT THIS PEST

Pampas grass

Maui County Priority Pest for Maui, Lanai, and Molokai:

Pampas grass (*Cortaderia* species) is a large clump grass that produces prolific amounts of wind borne seeds that can travel many miles. This grass can grow in a variety of habitats and has been found throughout upcountry Maui and at a few locations on West Maui (not on Molokai).

Identification

Height- up to 4 m (13 ft)

Flower- Cream to pinkish color, 300 - 600 mm (24 - 31 in) long

Fruit- Yellow, 0.8 cm (0.31 in)

Leaves- long, narrow, corkscrew shaped; deep green; saw-like sharp leaf edge

Flower Stalks- tower 3x taller than foliage



A mature pampas grass plant



Corkscrew shaped leaves distinguish young pampas grass



Pampas grass seed heads are often 2 ft long

Don't mistake pampas grass for these look-alikes:



A Hawaiian native carex sedge (*Carex wahuensis*) found in Poli Poli, Maui.

Native Hawaiian sedges (family Cyperaceae):

Some of the native Hawaiian sedges can be confused with young pampas grass. Native Hawaiian sedges do not produce corkscrew leaves, the saw-like sharp leaf edge, tall flowering stalks, and large showy seed plumes like pampas grass.